

24 January 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

In November 2022, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Kirkcowan School and Nursery Class. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and children and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Across the school and nursery, the headteacher and staff have created a warm, nurturing ethos. Relationships between adults and children are very positive.
- Staff have a strong understanding of children's progress and their individual needs. They support children well with their learning across the school and nursery. Staff are keen to take on new ideas to improve learners' experiences.
- Children are respectful, well-behaved, and enthusiastic about learning. They work well together in the mixed age classes.
- Practitioners in the nursery provide children with rich real life learning opportunities using the local environment and the wider community.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from Dumfries and Galloway Council.

- Continue to develop and embed effective approaches to raising attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school and nursery.
- Continue to provide children with opportunities to reflect on their achievements and progress and support them to identify their own next steps in learning.
- Continue to develop approaches to learning through play across the early level and beyond.

We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#) and [How good is our early learning and childcare?](#) Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Kirkcowan School and Nursery Class

Quality indicators for the primary school	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

Quality indicators for the nursery class	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Securing children's progress	good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our early learning and childcare? Appendix 1: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Reports page | Inspection reports | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. Dumfries and Galloway Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Maria A. Speirs
HM Inspector